(b) whether traditional farming will not be affected by it; and

(c) the details of the steps to be taken by farmers to grow the bio-diesel plants?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR):(a) to (c) According to information given by the National Oilseeds and Vegetable Oils Development (NOVOD) Board, farmers can grow *Jatropha Curcus (Ratan Jyot)*, which is a plant from which bio-diesel can be obtained, alongside other foodgrain plants. However, the proposed National Mission on Bio-diesel, for which the Ministry of Rural Development is the nodal Ministry, has the thrust on Jatropha cultivation primarily on waste land and in rain-fed areas and areas with very low levels of irrigation.

The NOVOD Board have compiled recommended agro-practices for *Jatropha* cultivation on the raising of nurseries, plantations, planting density, transplantation, fertilizers, irrigation, pruning, pest and disease control, flowering & fruiting, etc. They may be contacted by farmers for assistance.

2991 Canceled

Implementation of coal gasification projects

†2992. PROF. R.B.S. VARMA:
SHRI RUDRA NARAYAN PANY:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are formulating a plan for the gasification of coal deposits not fit for mining in the country;

(b) if so, the details of the plan; and

(c) the amount likely to be spent by Government for the implementation of the scheme?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR):(a) to (c) Exploration/assessment of Underground Coal Gasification (UCG) is at a nascent stage at present. Not having

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

requisite the technical expertise to take up Underground Coal Gasification projects themselves, some companies have attempted tie ups with agencies in other countries to study, develop and ultimately commercialize the technology for Indian coal and lignite resources. Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Ltd. have entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Skotchinsky Institute of Mining, Russia as well as Coal India Ltd. (CIL for the purpose. GAIL (India) Ltd. have entered into an MoU with M/s Ergo Exergy Technologies Inc., Canada. The actual potential of UCG can only be known after undertaking pilot studies on its commerciality. The size of investments in UCG will depend on the results of initial studies/pilot tests.

Allocation of kerosene to Orissa

2993. MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR:
SHRI B.J. PANDA:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Government of Orissa has made a request for enhencement of allocation of 40,000 KL kerosene per month to the State to meet the needs of remote and un-electrified areas of the backward State;

(b) whether it is a fact that the Centre has only made additional allocation of 9871 KL on 25th January, 2005 per month for two months, which falls short of the bare requirements;

(c) whether Government propose to enhance it to at least 40,000 KL per month as already requested by the State Government; and

(d) if so, the status thereof and the time-frame within which this would be agreed to?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR):(a) This Ministry has received representations from various State Government/Union Territories, including the Government of Orissa, for the enhancement of their SKO quota.

(b) Yes, Sir. Additional allocation of kerosene of 9871 KL (7682 MT)